Admissions Test – Part I

Faculty of Philosophy

5 December 2012

The total time for the test is 1 hour.

The test has two parts. Part I, which lasts 20 minutes, contains twenty multiple-choice questions. You should mark your answers to these questions onto this question paper itself. After 20 minutes the paper will be collected from you.

The question paper for Part II, which lasts 40 minutes, will then be given out. It will ask you to write a short essay. After 40 minutes that second question paper, together with your essay, will be collected from you.

You are not allowed to take either question paper from this room, nor any other notes or written material.

The test contains twenty questions. All are standard multiple-choice questions. Mark just one answer to each question by circling the corresponding letter.

1. Every year thousands of passengers take cheap flights on Bryanair. But all of them could afford to pay much more. So Bryanair could easily improve its profits by charging more.

   Which of the following best describes the flaw in this argument?

   A. It assumes that even if Bryanair's fares were higher it would still have about as many customers.
   B. It ignores the fact that millions of air travelers do not use Bryanair.
   C. It implies that Bryanair's cheap fares put customers off.
   D. It overlooks the possibility that it will cost Bryanair more to serve more customers.
   E. It ignores the fact that there are different airlines for different destinations.

2. 'The immune system can distinguish self from other at the cellular level. After grafting, if the immune system is not effectively ——, there is a —— of lymphocytes in the lymph glands. The newly produced lymphocytes then —— the foreign tissue.'

   Which of the following fillings makes the best sense of this passage?

   A. primed / reduction / stimulate
   B. suppressed / proliferation / activate
   C. suppressed / proliferation / attack
   D. activated / reduction / attack
   E. activated / proliferation / stimulate

3. A newspaper consists of 8 large sheets of paper printed on both sides stacked and folded inward down the middle like a book. The first sheet has the first and last page on one side and the second and second-last page on the other. The second sheet has the third and third-last page on one side and the fourth and fourth-last page on the other. And so on.

   Which four pages all lie on the same sheet?

   A. 1, 2, 15, 16.
   B. 2, 3, 30, 31.
   C. 3, 4, 27, 28.
   D. 5, 6, 27, 28.

E. 11, 12, 19, 20.

4. If Dombey and Son does not reduce wages then wage costs will continue to erode profits. This could mean the end of the business altogether. The company must either pay lower wages or run the risk of closing down.

   Which of the following best expresses the conclusion of this argument?

   A. Staff morale has reached dangerously low levels.
   B. The employers will have to accept a fall in profits.
   C. A fall in profits could mean the end of the business.
   D. If wages are reduced the company will be saved.
   E. If wages are not reduced the business could close down.

5. Countries with low prison populations also have low crime rates. So if the government wishes to reduce the crime rate it should invest less money in punishment and more money in preventative measures.

   Which of the following is an underlying assumption of this argument?

   A. The correlation between crime rates and incarceration rates indicates that low levels of crime cause low levels of imprisonment.
   B. The correlation between crime rates and incarceration rates indicates that low levels of imprisonment cause low levels of crime.
   C. Better-educated people commit fewer crimes.
   D. Criminals have a right to be treated humanely.
   E. It is better to prevent crime than to punish it.

6. A two-month study of major economies showed that worldwide demand for nuclear energy had fallen sharply. Consequently it is safe to assume that there will be a general decline in the rate at which new nuclear power stations are built.

   Which one of the following, if true, would most weaken the above argument?

   A. There is far less uranium than there was ten years ago, so nuclear power firms are finding it increasingly difficult to make a profit.
   B. Nuclear power firms now use high-grade uranium that is far more efficient.
   C. The worldwide demand for energy fluctuates considerably at certain times of the year.
   D. More and more countries are now turning increasingly to alternative

energy sources such as wind and solar power.
E. The worldwide demand for nuclear power has been falling consistently for the last twenty years and many firms have found alternative sources of revenue.

7. Advertising is largely to blame for a rise in personal debt. Research shows that the number of people in the UK with debts of more than 20% of income rose significantly over the last 10 years. Researchers also found that the average expenditure on advertising by loan companies rose by 40% over the same period.

Which one of the following best identifies a flaw in the above reasoning?

A. It confuses the absolute amount of debt with its value as a proportion of income.
B. It gives a causal explanation when only a correlation is known.
C. It makes a sweeping generalization on the strength of a very local sample.
D. It assumes that all debts are owed to loan companies.
E. It fails to specify the amount by which debt increased over the preceding 10 years.

8. Arthur cannot afford to buy the standard model of the latest Audi. The fuel-injection version is even more expensive, so Arthur cannot afford that either.

Which one of the following most closely parallels the reasoning used in the above argument?

A. Arthur does not like foods containing garlic. This pizza contains garlic and anchovies, so Arthur won't like it.
B. It is too far for Arthur to walk to the garden centre. The shops are closer, so he will go there instead.
C. Arthur cannot sleep at night if he drinks a cup of tea after 9pm, because tea contains caffeine. Coffee contains more caffeine than tea, so Arthur won't drink that after 9pm either.
D. Arthur didn't have enough patience to complete the 1000 piece jigsaw he got for his birthday. The Times crossword also requires patience, so he won't complete that either.
E. Arthur's hair is shorter, and Callum's hair is longer, than Bill's. So Arthur's hair is shorter than Callum's.

9. A secretary is in a bad mood with her boss and has to write four letters intended for four different people. She makes sure that although every intended recipient gets just one letter, all but one of the recipients of the letters receives one written to someone else.

   In how many different ways can she send the four different letters to achieve this?

   A. 4
   B. 5
   C. 6
   D. 7
   E. 8

10. Attempting to control emissions is a waste of time and money. We are now well past the point where climate change could be reversed, let alone prevented. So all of the time and resources that we are now spending on ways to reduce output and consumption would be better spent trying to alleviate the effects of climate change.

    Which of the following, if true, would most weaken this argument?

    A. Climate change is largely natural.
    B. There have been many periods of severe climate fluctuation in the past.
    C. Coping with the effects of climate change is very costly.
    D. Climate change is likely to benefit people living in some parts of the world e.g. Greenland.
    E. Reducing emissions is likely to reduce the severity of climate change.

11. At the University of X, there are two departments, Maths and English. You can apply to just one department. Boys and girls apply to the University in the same numbers. The overall acceptance rate for girls is higher than the overall acceptance rate for boys. And yet amongst those that apply to the Maths department the boys are accepted at the same rate as the girls; and amongst those that apply to the English department, the boys are accepted at the same rate as the girls.

    Which one of the following statements could also be true?

    A. The number of boys and girls applying to each department is equal.
    B. The number of boys applying to each department is higher than the number of girls applying to that department.
    C. The number of boys applying to each department is lower than the

number of girls applying to that department.
- **D.** More boys than girls apply to the department with the lower acceptance rate.
- **E.** More boys than girls apply to the department with the higher acceptance rate.

12. To be sure of catching the train you should have allowed enough time to get to the station and to find the platform. You may reach the station in time but it is very large, so you won't be able to find the platform in time. Therefore you will miss the train.

    Which of the following arguments has the same structure as this one?

    - **A.** To light a fire you need dry kindling wood and a firelighter. You have got a firelighter but the kindling wood has been left out in the rain, so it isn't dry. So you will not be able to light the fire.
    - **B.** To pass your exam you need to be hard-working and intelligent. You have done very little revision and your score in intelligence tests is low. So you are going to fail the exam.
    - **C.** Your car is below the high tide line and it is stuck in the sand. The tide will be at its maximum height in 30 minutes and the tow truck is not due for 45 minutes. So you are not going to be able to save your car from the sea.
    - **D.** To reach Leeds you will have to go by motorway or by train. The motorway is blocked due to an accident and will not be open for several hours. Therefore you will have to take the train.
    - **E.** For breakfast you like to have either toast or cereal. Unfortunately there is no bread and I have just eaten the last of the cereal. So you will not be able to have any breakfast.

13. Undoubtedly unemployment rates affect violent crime. A recent study demonstrated that areas with the highest unemployment rates also suffered the worst rates of violent crime. Consequently, if we could create more jobs in areas with high unemployment, we would be able to eliminate a significant proportion of the violence in our society.

    Which of the following, if true, most weakens this argument?

    - **A.** It is not possible to force existing employers to take on more staff.
    - **B.** Many of the unemployed are law-abiding.
    - **C.** It has been shown that longer prison sentences are the best deterrent to crime.
    - **D.** Poor educational provision is the major cause of both unemployment and violent criminality.

    E. Many young people turn to crime when they have too much time on their hands.

14. If Paul and Lisa are to be happily married, they must talk to each other more. Their counselling sessions have shown, however, that they find this impossible, so their marriage will not be a happy one.

Which one of the following most closely parallels the reasoning in the argument above?

    A. If Lopez wants to do better at school, he will need to give up his part-time job. He stresses that he wants to improve his schoolwork, so he will obviously have to give up his job.

    B. If Julie and Mike are to adopt a child, they have to be able to show that they have a stable relationship. Unfortunately, they haven't got a good history of stability in their marriage, so they are going to have to work hard at improving this.

    C. If Myra is to start up her own business, she will need at least £5000 to cover her start up costs. She has only £1000, so she will need to borrow the rest from the bank.

    D. If Nusra is to find a job that really interests her, then she must be prepared to earn much less than she does in her present job. However, because she is unwilling to sacrifice her current high wage, she will not find a job that would interest her.

    E. If Carl and Tesfa are going to go through with their divorce, they must be sure that they don't want to give their marriage another go. They have both insisted that divorce is the only option, so further counselling is pointless.

15. Membership of NATO has resulted in the maintenance of peace and security for the countries that make it up. It is desirable that the Arab countries in the Middle East become comparably peaceful and secure. Therefore NATO should be enlarged as soon as possible to include more Arab countries.

This argument is flawed. Which of the following identifies an error in its reasoning?

    A. It assumes that the Arab countries have the potential for peace and security that the existing members had prior to entry.

    B. It fails to acknowledge that there are countries outside NATO that are just as peaceful and secure.

    C. It relies on there being no opposition to the enlargement of NATO from existing member countries.

D. It implies that exclusion of the Arab countries from NATO would result in their being unstable.

E. It assumes that the success of a country can be measured in purely military and defence terms.

16. The formerly _____ waters of the River Y have become _____. So even though it teems with life, fish are no longer visible from the surface.

    Which of the following fillings makes the best sense of this passage?

    A. murky / tranquil
    B. stagnant / verdant
    C. pellucid / turbid
    D. pellucid / verdant
    E. stagnant / tranquil

17. In a particular year the month of January (which has 31 days) contains five Sundays.

    Which one of the following could **NOT** be true?

    A. The first Sunday in the month occurs before the 4th.
    B. The 1st of January is a Friday.
    C. There are only four Thursdays.
    D. There are five Tuesdays.
    E. The 31st of January is a Wednesday**.**

18. You have six employees and each gets to take one day of leave this week. There must be five people on duty on any one day. The office is open Monday-Saturday. Each employee has stated a preference for leave on the following days.

    Alex: Tuesday, Wednesday or Saturday
    Billy: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday
    Cheryl: Wednesday or Saturday
    Danni: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday or Saturday
    Ellie: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Saturday
    Frank: Tuesday or Wednesday

    You want to accommodate everyone's preferences. On what day should Danni get leave?

    A. Monday

    B. Tuesday
    C. Wednesday
    D. Thursday
    E. Saturday

19. A drawer contains ten red socks and ten black socks. What is the smallest number of socks that I must randomly take out so as to be *certain* of drawing a matching pair of socks?

    A. 2
    B. 3
    C. 4
    D. 11
    E. 12

20. Which of the following statements is the only true one?

    A. All five statements on this list are true.
    B. All five statements on the list are false.
    C. D is true.
    D. C is the only true statement on this list.
    E. A and B are false.

YOUR NAME:

Admissions Test – Part II

Faculty of Philosophy

5 December 2012

Please write *one* essay on the topic of one of the questions below. You have 40 minutes for this part of the test.

QUESTION 1

'You can never really settle ethical disputes. All that they ever show is that the disputing parties have different priorities. Therefore there is no real answer to questions of right and wrong any more than there is to questions of taste.' Discuss.

QUESTION 2

'It is a waste of energy to be angry with a man who behaves badly, just as it is to be angry with a car that won't start.' Is it?